(c) With a view to popularize the water harvesting in other States including water deficient States, the CGWB has approved 172 schemes in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan under the above mentioned pilot scheme.

Inter-basin water transfer

2522. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNITA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering inter-basin water transfer in different regions of the country to tackle drought and floods in the face of growing water demands due to increase in population;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by Government for achieving consensus among basin States; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for early implementation of the proposal in order to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers. Through this programme it is intended to assess the surplus basins as of now for possible transfer of water from surplus to deficit basin in order to optimally utilize the water resources of the country. With this purpose the Government of India has established the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 as an autonomous society to carryout water balance and feasibility studies of the Peninsular and Himalayan rivers. Union Minister of Water Resources heads the Society and Chief Ministers/ Irrigation Ministers of the States are its Members. The Society meets regularly to review progress made in National Perspective and to decide the further course of action. NWDA has identified 30 links under National Perspective for preparation of Feasibility Report and has completed Feasibility Report of 6 links. Implementation of the water transfer links would only be possible if the concerned co basin

States agree to the water linkage proposal and other logistical support necessary for project implementation and availability of fund. It has been decided recently to constitute a group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and consisting of other officers of CWC and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resources Department from concerned States to discuss with the States the issues of arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and the preparation of detailed project report by NWDA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at Six minutes past eleven of the clock, till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 17th April, 2002.

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